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EXAMINER

AHMAD, CHARISSA L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

4136

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/01/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Priority***

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### ***Election/Restrictions***

2. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

### **BEAMS**

- Species 1 of Figs. 1 and 2 comprised of a beam with a central web extending between hollow flanges having a rectangular cross-section.
- Species 2 of Fig. 3 comprised of a beam fabricated from separate web and flange elements.
- Species 3 of Fig. 4 comprised of a beam fabricated by shaping a hollow flanged beam from a single strip of metal.
- Species 4 of Fig. 5 comprised of a beam with end faces of hollow flanges formed as radiussed curves.
- Species 5 of Fig. 6 comprised of a beam with a free edge welded to a radiussed junction between a web and side.
- Species 6 of Fig. 22 comprised of a beam with longitudinally extending alternating ribs and troughs and longitudinally extending stiffening ribs.
- Species 7 of Fig. 23 comprised of a beam with transversely extending spaced ribs.

FLOWER SEQUENCES

- Species 8 of Fig. 10 involving a direct forming process.
- Species 9 of Figs. 11a and 11b involving the formation and shaping of a beam by another aspect.

FABRICATION

- Species 10 involving forming a beam by a folding process as discussed in Line 30 of page 8.
- Species 11 involving forming a beam by a roll forming process as discussed in Line 31 of page 8.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

3. The following claim(s) are generic: independent Claim 1 appears to be generic.

Art Unit: 3634

4. The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: see description of species above.

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

**6. Applicant is reminded that he/she is required to select only one species from each of the groups of species (Beams, Flower Sequences and Fabrication) listed above.**

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charissa Ahmad whose telephone number is (571) 270-5220. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 am to 5 pm (alternate Fridays off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. Allen Shriver can be reached on (571) 272-6698. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Charissa Ahmad  
Examiner  
Art Unit 4136

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